

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /084 W
-----030912Z 106029 /12

R 030759Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 463
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, UNDP, SW
SUBJECT: SWEDISH IDEAS ON FUTURE ROLE OF UNDP: FEW

REF: STATE 86320

1. EMBASSY ECONOFF DISCUSSED UNDP WITH SIDA OFFICIALS IN SOME DEPTH. THEY MADE AVAILABLE PENULTIMATE DRAFT OF MEMORANDUM WHICH SWEDISH DELEGATION SHOULD NOW HAVE PRESENTED TO UNDP ADMINISTRATOR (BEING POUCHED TO WASHINGTON). DATE OF DRAFT WAS APRIL 12.

2. SWEDES ARE PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH FINANCING PROBLEMS. THEIR PAPER CONCENTRATES FIRST ON NEED TO SECURE AGREED LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 1977-81 PERIOD. SECONDLY, HOWEVER, SWEDES WISH TO PUSH EFFORTS TO ENGAGE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS IN ACHIEVING A NEGOTIATED MULTI-YEAR CONTRIBUTION TARGET. SUCCESS IN IDA REPLENISHMENT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD ENCOURAGE THIS EFFORT AND PROVIDE MODEL.

3. SWEDISH PAPER SUGGESTS QUESTION OF NON-CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY CONTRIBUTIONS HAS BECOME POLITICAL ISSUE WHICH
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SHOULD BE SETTLED BY WAY OF INFORMAL CONTACTS BETWEEN
"GOVERNMENTS IN QUESTION."

4. SWEDES ARE ALSO CONCERNED AT INCREASING USE OF
EXTRA-BUDGETARY FINANCING OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PRO-
JECTS THROUGH UN.

5. IN AREA OF GENERAL CRITICISM, SWEDES HOLD UNDP'S PRINCIPAL PROBLEM IS ITS LACK OF PROFILE OR CHARACTER: "IT IS EVERYTHING TO EVERYONE." IN ADDITION, HOWEVER, SOME UNDP DONORS ARE DISENCHANTED WITH COUNTRY PROGRAMMING SYSTEM. SWEDES SUGGEST ONE APPROACH TO PROBLEM IS TO REGULARIZE MULTIBI FINANCING SYSTEM BEFORE SHEER VOLUME OF SUCH FUNDS WITHIN UNDP LEADS TO (UNDESIRABLE) PATTERNS OF THEIR USE. SECOND, UNDP MUST ACQUIRE A MORE MARKED PROFILE. SWEDES BELIEVE THIS MEANS MOVING AWAY FROM NET DRAIN OF RESOURCES TO RECIPIENTS IN EUROPE AND OTHERS AT UPPER END OF PER CAPITA GNP SCALE IN FAVOR OF CHANNELING MORE AID TO POOREST RECIPIENTS. ALTHOUGH NOT INCLUDED IN SWEDISH PAPER, SWEDES ALSO BELIEVE CONCEPT OF "POOREST" MUST BE EXPANDED BEYOND CURRENT LIST. THIRDLY, SWEDES BELIEVE COUNTRY LEVEL PROGRAMMING MUST BE SHARPER. UNFORTUNATELY, NO REALLY CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTION IS OFFERED ON HOW THIS LAST GOAL MIGHT BE ACHIEVED. WHEN EMBOFF ASKED ABOUT EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK IN THIS CONTEXT (PARA 5(A) OF REFTEL), SWEDES CLEARLY BELIEVED CURRENT TRIPARTITE REVIEW SYSTEM TO BE USFFICIENT AND HAD NO IDEAS CONCERNING APPLICATION OF PAST EXPERIENCE TO PROJECTS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

6. QUESTION OF UNDP ROLE AND COORDINATION OF OVERALL UN DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS OCCUPIES SMALL PART OF SWEDISH PAPER, BUT EMBOFF DID DISCUSS PROBLEM AT LENGTH. SWEDES BELIEVE SOLUTION IS APPOINTMENT OF UNDP REP AS PERSONAL "AMBASSADOR" OF SEC GEN (JIU/REP/76/10). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEY WOULD THEN LIKE TO SEE REPS OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES IN THE FIELD BROUGHT INTO ONE OFFICE UNDER THIS "UN DEVELOPMENT AMBASSADOR." REPS OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES SHOULD BE PRESENT IN UNDP HEAD-QUARTERS. CAN UNDP FIELD OFFICES COPE WITH INCREASED NEEDS OF EFFECTIVE COORDINATION IF ACHIEVED? THE SWEDES CANNOT ANSWER THIS ONE, BUT ARE OPPOSED TO ANY FURTHER "BUREAUCRATIC BUILDUP."

7. WHEN DISCUSSING INCREASING UNDP RESOURCES, SWEDES WERE EMPHATICALLY AGAINST ASKING FOR ADDITIONAL OPEC CONTRIBUTIONS. SWEDES FEEL WE HAVE BEEN GOING TO THE WELL TOO OFTEN. MOST CERTAINLY THOSE NATIONS WHO ARE NOW A NET DRAIN ON UNDP FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND SIMULTANEOUSLY IN THE UPPER RANGE OF GNP PER CAPITA SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO PAY FOR TECHNOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE THEY RECEIVE. WOULD THIS NOT MEAN A DIMINUTION OF SCARCE MANPOWER RESOURCES EVEN IF REIMBURSEMENT WERE RECEIVED? SHRUG. WOULD MAJOR STRUCTURAL AND

OPERATIONAL CHANGES NOT BE INEVITABLE IN UNDP? TWO
SHRUGS. SWEDES ARE AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE
SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE A SINGLE GENERAL UNDP FUND.
(SEE COMMENTS ON MULTIBI FINANCING ABOVE.)

8. SWEDES ARE OPPOSED TO A STANDING INTER-GOVERNMENTAL
COMMITTEE AND A SINGLE YEARLY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL
BECAUSE THEY FEEL MANY LDCS WOULD THEN FEEL LEFT OUT:
E.G., INDIA WHERE BUREAUCRATS MUST JUSTIFY TRIPS TO UN
ACCORDING TO FREQUENCY OF VISITS. MORE IMPORTANT TO
SWEDES IS DANGER THAT WEALTHY NATIONS WHO CAN AFFORD
TO KEEP STRONG PERMANENT DELEGATIONS IN NEW YORK WOULD
GAIN DISPROPORTIONATE VOICE IN INTERIM DECISIONS.

9. BELIEVE SWEDES CAN BE MOVED IN SOME AREAS IF WE
HAVE US POSITION BEFORE 24TH GC SESSION, BUT DETAILED
KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITY TO DO NECESSARY STAFF WORK ON
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VARIOUS SUGGESTIONS IS NOT HIGH IN GOVERNMENT.
PERRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STOCKH01870
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770154-0483
Format: TEL
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770598/aaaadhae.tel
Line Count: 141
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 83c6309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 86320
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2651927
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SWEDISH IDEAS ON FUTURE ROLE OF UNDP: FEW
TAGS: EAID, SW, UNDP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/83c6309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009